



# NEWS RELEASE

Contact

Tim Rickabaugh

660-885-5567 Ext. #5

## USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROVIDES \$579,800 TO CITY OF IONIA



The City of Ionia received a \$579,800 Mock Check from USDA Rural Development on Tuesday, August 9, 2005, during a ceremony at the Ionia Community Hall. The funds will be utilized to construct a central wastewater collection and treatment facility to serve the community of Ionia. The project will further the City's goal of providing safe and dependable treatment of wastewater to the 56 residential users served.

"It is important that we meet the infrastructure needs of our communities throughout Missouri," said Senator Kit Bond. "I thank USDA for their partnership, and their commitment to the betterment of our communities."

"Good water infrastructure is key for every community," said U. S. Senator Jim Talent, a member of the Senate Agriculture Committee. "This funding will preserve and protect Missouri's water resources for the folks in Ionia. I will continue to work in the Senate to secure additional resources for rural Missouri."

Congressman Ike Skelton said "Healthy communities rely upon clean and safe water supplies. This USDA Rural Development funding will allow the City of Ionia to build up-to-date and modern wastewater collection and treatment facilities, which will help the community protect this vital resource."

"Access to a safe and dependable wastewater treatment facility is a fundamental necessity to each of us," said Greg Brannum, Missouri State Director for USDA Rural Development. "Rural Development is committed to working with organizations like the City of Ionia to provide essential services to rural Missouri. I want to commend the City of Ionia for making this project a reality. The project mirrors USDA Rural Developments mission and President Bush's initiative of being committed to the future of rural communities."

MECO Engineering Company of Jefferson City designed the wastewater collection and treatment project. Kissick Construction and Sterling Construction were the general contractors for the project.

The City of Ionia wastewater system improvements will cost \$1,161,044. Financing for the project is being provided through a \$144,850 USDA Rural Development loan, a \$434,950 USDA Rural Development grant, a \$480,540 State of Missouri Department of Natural Resources grant, a \$262,400 Missouri Department of Economic Development grant and \$4,760 contribution from the City of Ionia.

Branum added, “Special thanks are extended to our federal elected officials including U.S. Senators “Kit” Bond and Jim Talent plus U.S. Representative Ike Skelton for making available federal monies for funding this kind of project providing essential services to the residents of Morgan County.”

Anyone seeking more information about the water and wastewater programs or any other USDA Rural Development programs may visit the homepage at <http://www.rurdev.gov/mo> or by contacting the Clinton Area Office at 1306 North 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, Clinton, MO 64735 or by calling (660) 885-5567- ext 5.

**“Committed to the future of rural communities.”**

***Rural Development is an Equal Opportunity Lender, Provider, and Employer. Complaints of discrimination should be sent to USDA. Director, Office of Civil Rights, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410***